



## Public Service Recognition Week, May 5th – 11th

In honor of Public Service Recognition Week, this edition of FEB News & Events is dedicated to those federal public servants who have given their time, hearts, and sometimes their lives for our country. The following stories highlight a variety of people and ways that our local federal government is making a positive difference in the lives of others. They also represent the strength of partnerships between federal agencies and the community that create a more cost-effective, and caring, federal government.

### 304th Rescue Squadron's PJs Saving Lives in the Desert

Nine heroes, members of the 304th Rescue Squadron, located with the 939th Air Refueling Wing in Portland, returned home April 26, 2003 after deploying on December 1, 2002, on their life-saving mission in "Operation Iraqi Freedom." Waiting to greet them were their families, military co-workers, civilian rescue workers, civilian fire officers and members of Portland's media.

Second Lieutenant Mark, Master Sergeants Dave, Don, Gary, Matt and Tom, and Technical Sergeants Eric, Tim and Tony returned by civilian aircraft to Portland International Airport. Reservists met them at the airport and drove them to the Air Force Reserve side of the installation where well-wishers awaited their delivery on the far side of an honor arch formed by two fire department ladder trucks, ladders extended, flying a U.S. flag welcoming them home.

These pararescue jumpers, known as PJs, live by the motto "*These things we do...that others may live.*" During "Operation Iraqi Freedom" they demonstrated repeatedly their dedication to a life of service that is dangerous even during peacetime, and in which risk is extreme under combat conditions.

On April 7, Second Lieutenant Mark, with Second Lieutenant Quintin, Technical Sergeants Jason and Richard, who are still deployed, braved severe



Pararescue Jumpers (PJs) from the 304th Rescue Squadron diving to a mission somewhere over the Middle East.

weather conditions to aid two wounded Army Special Forces troops. The critically wounded soldiers needed help about five miles south of Baghdad. The rescue team worked with Air Force and Army special operations forces to locate them and transfer them to a hospital in Kuwait, where it was determined that they had a 95 percent chance of survival. Two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and two A-10 Thunderbolt airplanes launched from an air base in southern Iraq for the mission. An HC-130 refueler launched from another air base in the region.

U.S. Army helicopters from another nearby base were alerted in case backup firepower was needed during the evacuation.

As the team flew to the evacuation site, the Pave Hawk aircrews learned the soldiers were in critical condition. They coordinated with a special operations MC-130E Combat Talon I to meet them at An Jajaf, 75 miles south of Baghdad, and to set up a patient transfer from the helicopters to the airplane. The MC-130E had a flight surgeon and two medical technicians on board to treat and stabilize the wounded en route to an advanced medical facility. Everyone involved in the operation was able to overcome the blowing sand and dust, which allowed about a half-mile of visibility and a flying ceiling of only 3,500 feet.

On another mission, the same rescue team saved an A-10 Thunderbolt pilot who had ejected from his damaged airplane following what is believed to have been an Iraqi surface-to-air missile strike near Baghdad's airport. The Thunderbolt came under fire while flying a close air support mission over western Bagh-

dad on April 8. The team recovered the pilot and delivered him back to a coalition base, uninjured. Rescue members went in on HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters with a C-130 aircraft providing refueling support.

Seven Marines were pinned down behind enemy lines in lengthy, complicated and dangerous missions on March 23. Quintin, Mark, Master Sergeant Jim and Technical Sergeant Todd were part of a team that used two HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters and an HC-130 aircraft to rescue the Marines.

There are other stories—other rescues the returning nine performed. There is another team of nine still in Iraq. They have saved lives and will remain available for a while, to save those who may not be able to save themselves.

It's what PJs do.

*Major Karen "Jack" Magnus, USAFR 939th Refueling Wing.*

## Nat'l Guard Emergency Relief Fund Takes Care of Its Own

The Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief Fund (ORNGERF) is a non-profit organization designed to provide emergency financial assistance to Oregon Army and Air National Guard members. It is one of the first of its kind in the nation.

National Guard members are not eligible to receive either Red Cross or emergency relief funds from the Army or Air Force Associations, except when on full time training duty for more than 30 consecutive days. Because of this, the ORNGERF was created.

Incorporated on April 29th, 1986, the Fund made its first loan in February of the following year. Over

the next twelve months \$11,575 was loaned to 54 Army and Air National Guard families in need.

Any active member of the Army or Air National Guard facing a true emergency is eligible. Examples include: a serious delay in the soldier's Inactive Duty Training Pay; a Guard member's family is being evicted or utilities are being shut off; the Guard member has small children and needs money for food; or disasters, such as fire.

This is an interest free loan of up to \$150 and is intended to help a soldier or airman in need to get back on his/her feet. Repayment terms are established at the time of the loan in form of a promissory note. Each case is highly individual and tailored to the mutual satisfaction of the borrower and the fund. Unit First Sergeants are actively involved in this process.

The ORNGERF is not government funded, being entirely dependent upon contributions from soldiers and airmen of the Guard and employees of the federal government. Donations are fully tax deductible and can also be made through the Combined Federal Campaign, using payroll deduction. Look for the organization's listing in your 2003 CFC brochure.

It has been a tradition of the Oregon National Guard to take care of its own. The ORNGERF has been a very effective and positive care program for over 17 years. For more information, call Sgt. Garcia at 503-584-3939.

*Sgt. Martha-Estela L. Garcia, Oregon Army National Guard.*



Crew from the Oregon Army National Guard's 1042nd Medical Evacuation unit, Salem, serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina. One team from the unit recently returned to Oregon from a year-long tour of duty in Afghanistan.

## Willamette National Cemetery Honors the Ultimate Sacrifice

Captain Aaron Contreras, a U.S. Marine from Sherwood, Oregon, was laid to rest with honors here last month with family, friends, and fellow military personnel in attendance. Killed in action during “Operation Iraqi Freedom,” Captain Contreras is another hero with a home at Willamette National Cemetery (WNC).

Since 1950 WNC has provided burial services to our nation’s veterans and their families. The variety of services and the manner in which they are done reflect the honor and respect due those who rest here. Such services go beyond providing burials, lasting memorials and perpetual care. The employees take pride in the work they do for those who choose this national shrine as their final resting place.

The cemetery spans 269 acres with more than 118,000 interments. An average of 15 veterans and eligible dependents are interred at WNC daily; more than 3,400 veterans and family members were laid to rest at this site on the slopes of Mt. Scott in southeast Portland last year. Each burial is handled with care, compassion and a practiced hand. Every funeral represents a family’s loved one; a veteran who gave of him or herself to serve a nation. It is a final opportunity for family and friends to say farewell and pay tribute for faithful and honorable service. Most of the

cemetery’s 42 employees are veterans themselves and all appreciate the significance of the sacrifices that have been made.

Every day visitors call the office to ask questions about loved ones, their own eligibility, or VA burial benefits. They approach cemetery caretakers to ask about floral regulations, grounds maintenance, or recent burials. We strive to remember each visitor has suffered loss, whether recently or long ago. Willamette serves as their place of remembrance.

The VA’s 120 national cemeteries are maintained and preserved as national shrines. They are lasting memorials to those who served – in times of war and peace – to protect a nation and its citizens.

*Kathleen McCall, Willamette National Cemetery.*



The Veteran’s Memorial plaque at Columbarium I, Willamette National Cemetery.

## Flexibility Lets Civilian Federal Employees Do Double Duty

As one of the largest federal agencies in the region, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) plays a major role in our economy. It also plays a significant role in our local and national defense.

According to BPA sources, 3-5% of its workforce is either on reserve, active, or available for recall in the Oregon Army and Air National Guards. Many have been called up recently to respond to the war on terrorism or “Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

One citizen soldier is Karen Stuwe. A Revenue Analyst in the Vancouver office, Karen has been with BPA for nine years; she’s been on reserve with the Oregon Air National Guard (ORANG) for nineteen. In response to the September 11th terrorist attacks, in October 2001 she was called to active duty for nine months as an Intelligence Information Management Staff Sergeant at the Portland International Airport ORANG base.

Karen was grateful for the opportunity to apply her skills and military training to serve her country. She was also thankful that BPA and the Guard made

allowances so she could work both jobs. Karen said that BPA management was very supportive, giving her a flexible work schedule and additional time outside of her normal duty hours. The Guard was just as helpful, releasing her early, or for full days when her workload permitted so she could go back to BPA. Karen called this assignment a “very rewarding experience.”

Before joining Bonneville, Karen also was on active duty from 1992-94 working on a counter-drug program task force with the U.S. Attorney’s office and the Oregon State Police Crime Lab. This program included mentoring students at Portland metro area schools located in high-risk drugs zones.

Karen is a native Oregonian, born and raised in Salem. She attended Warner Pacific College in Portland, and is the proud mother of two daughters and two grandchildren. Her roles with both BPA and the Guard are a tribute to the spirit of public service.

*Jeff Sargent, Oregon Federal Executive Board.*



# COMMITTEE CORNERS

## Policy Committee



At our last meeting on April 23rd, we reviewed the General Membership Meeting, discussing ways to improve upon it and focusing on the next one, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 10. We are considering a more interactive format, focusing on the role of the federal government in the regional economy.

**NEXT MTG:** TBD

## Administrative Services



Our next meeting will be held June 11th (see below and pg. 5 for details). Featured topics will be e-government, a President's Management Agenda item, and A-76/competitive sourcing challenges. Chief Information Officers, IT specialists and others interested are encouraged to attend.

**NEXT MTG:** June 11th, 1:30–3:30, Green-Wyatt, #G70

## Combined Federal Campaign



Randy Crockett, 2003 Columbia River/Willamette Valley CFC Chair, and his Leadership Cabinet will meet May 13th to begin plans for this year's campaign. Cabinet members include Captain Kim York, Oregon Military Dept., Jim Johnson, U.S. Postal Service; Jim Gardner, Federal Grain Inspection Service; Tom Birdinground, Chemawa Indian Health Service; and Nancie Pruitt, Federal Highway Administration in Vancouver.

**NEXT MTG:** May 13th, 10-11:30 am, Holiday Inn Wilsonville (I-5 at exit 286).

## Shared Neutrals/ADR



The OFEB Shared Neutrals/ Alternative Dispute Resolution Annual Meeting will be held this Thursday! All interested federal employees are welcome to join. Included will be exciting speakers, training for mediators and a best practices sharing session for liaisons.

Contact Chair Fran Peterson at 503-230-5860, [fjpetersen@bpa.gov](mailto:fjpetersen@bpa.gov) for more information or to attend.

**NEXT MTG:** May 8th, 9 am - 4 pm, Bonneville Power Admin., 905 NE 11th Ave., room 122, Portland

## Emergency Preparedness



At our last meeting April 8, Chair Les Miller and others discussed the committee's goals and how it can benefit more federal agencies. Suggestions included sharing emergency plans and key contacts, conducting more Emergency Tabletops, and inviting other agencies to existing preparedness training conducted by federal, state or local agencies. The committee would also like someone with a Human Resources background to join the group. If you are interested, please contact Les Miller at 503-808-4400, [d.les.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:d.les.miller@usace.army.mil).

## Retention & Development



The annual Professional Excellence seminar is coming May 21st, featuring guest speakers Larry Briggs and Marina Santos. If you'd like to attend, contact Mary Cecilian at 503-326-3010, [mcecilia@pcez.com](mailto:mcecilia@pcez.com).

Bonneville Power Administration and the Fish & Wildlife Office are sponsoring EEO training, for all federal supervisors and managers. A full day session costs only \$100, to be held at BPA June 12th in Vancouver and 13th in Portland. Contact Bill Beebe at 503-230-5222 or [wdbeebe@bpa.gov](mailto:wdbeebe@bpa.gov) for more info or to register.

## Public Affairs



The Public Affairs Committee will meet for the second time this year on May 16th, to further develop the ideas shared in the first meeting. All federal public affairs, marketing and communications professionals are welcome to attend. In addition, back by popular demand will be another "Communications in Difficult Situations" seminar with Rene-Marc Mangin, now scheduled for June 12th. See the Calendar for details.

**NEXT MTG:** May 16th, 9:30 a.m., Green-Wyatt, #225

## Minority Business Opportunity



Our last meeting was held Tuesday, May 6th at the One World Trade Center in downtown Portland.

MBOC Chair Tyrone Henry was honored on April 30th as the local Small Business Administration's Oregon and Region X Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year. Congratulations Tyrone!

**NEXT MTG:** June 12th, 10 am - 12 pm, location TBD

# OFEB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MAY '03

### CSRS Retirement Seminar

May 6th – 7th 8:30 am

Location: Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg.  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Room G70A, Portland

Day 1: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm (register @ 8:00 am)  
Day 2: 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

Cost: \$100 for federal employees, \$40 for spouses.  
To register, please contact Mary Ceciliani at  
503-326-3010 or [mcecilia@pcez.com](mailto:mcecilia@pcez.com).

### Shared Neutrals Annual Meeting

May 8th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Annual gathering of mediators, liaisons and all those involved with the committee to review the year's activities, share best practices and participate in valuable training sessions.

Location: Bonneville Power Administration  
905 NE 11th, Room 122, Portland

Please contact Chair Fran Peterson at 503-230-5860,  
[fjpetersen@bpa.gov](mailto:fjpetersen@bpa.gov) for more information or to attend.

### Public Affairs Committee Mtg.

May 16th 9:30 – 10:30 am

Quarterly meeting to discuss ways to enhance communication and coordination between federal agencies, best practices sharing, and the promotion of the OFEB and its services.

Location: Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg.  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Room 225, Portland

### Professional Excellence 2003

May 21st 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

One of our most popular training events, this year's features dynamic consultants Larry Briggs and Marina Santos, who will share their unique methods to help you create a more satisfying career in federal service.

Location: Radisson Hotel Lloyd Center  
1441 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue at Weidler, Portland

Cost: \$60-Does not include lunch. You may purchase a buffet lunch at the Radisson for an additional \$8. To register, contact Mary Ceciliani at 503-326-3010, [mcecilia@pcez.com](mailto:mcecilia@pcez.com).

## JUNE '03

### Minority Business Opp. Committee

May 6th 9:00 – 11:00 am

Monthly meeting to discuss ways to enhance hiring of minority-, women-, disabled- and emerging small businesses for federal and other public sector contracts.

Location: One World Trade Center  
121 SW Salmon St., Portland

### Administrative Services Meeting

June 11th 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Hosted by Lynda Stelzer, Bonneville Power Admin. and Kathy Eaton, Bureau of Land Management, key topics for this quarterly meeting are e-government and the A-76 outsourcing initiative. Guest speakers will present the latest developments. Chief Information Officers, IT specialists and others are invited.

Location: Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg.  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Room G70A, Portland

### Communications Training

June 12th 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** Learn how to effectively present controversial issues to a group with experienced consultant René-Marc Mangin.

Location: Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg.  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Room 322, Portland

Cost: \$100 per person.

Class limited to 30 persons. To register, please contact Mary Ceciliani at 503-326-3010 or [mcecilia@pcez.com](mailto:mcecilia@pcez.com).

### FERS Retirement Seminar

June 17th – 18th 8:30 am

Location: Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg.  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Room G70A, Portland

Day 1: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm (register @ 8:00 am)  
Day 2: 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

Cost: \$100 for federal employees, \$40 for spouses.  
To register, please contact Mary Ceciliani at  
503-326-3010 or [mcecilia@pcez.com](mailto:mcecilia@pcez.com).

I have the consolation of having added nothing to my private fortune during my public service, and of retiring with hands clean as they are empty.

Thomas Jefferson



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## OFEB Policy Committee Officers

**Cathy Callahan:** OFEB Chair, National Labor Relations Board  
**Lynda Stelzer:** Administrative Services Committee Co-Chair, Bonneville Power Administration  
**Kathy Eaton:** Administrative Services Committee Co-Chair, Bureau of Land Management  
**Randy Crockett:** Combined Federal Campaign Chair, Social Security Administration  
**Les Miller:** Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
**Beth Anne Steele:** Public Affairs Committee Chair, Federal Bureau of Investigation



### *At Large Members:*

**Lucy Devenney**, Willamette National Cemetery; **Phil Gentry**, Small Business Administration; **Janice Goodwin**, National Agricultural Statistics Service; **Bob Graham**, Natural Resources Conservation Service; **Harry T. Hall**, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; **Captain Paul Jewell**, U.S. Coast Guard; **Lt. Col. Charles Markham**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; **Roy Roosevelt**, U.S. Forest Service.

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## Sub Committees/Chairs

The first three sub-committees below are part of the OFEB Administrative Services Committee. Community service (represented by the Combined Federal Campaign), Emergency Preparedness and Public Affairs are stand-alone committees.

*Alternative Dispute Resolution /Shared Neutrals (mediated employee disputes):*

**Chair: Fran Petersen**, Bonneville Power Admin., (503) 230-5860

*Collaborative Retention/Employee Development:*

**Chair:** Staffed by Ron Johnson and Jeff Sargent

*Minority Business Opportunity Committee:*

**Chair: Tyrone Henry**, Portland Development Commission, (503) 823-3315

*Combined Federal Campaign*

**Chair: Randy Crockett**, Social Security Administration, (503) 326-6309

*Emergency Preparedness:*

**Chair: Les Miller**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (503) 808-4400

*Public Affairs:*

**Chair: Beth Ann Steele**, Federal Bureau of Investigation (503) 552-5238

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## OFEB Staff

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